

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 21 are pending in the present application. Claims 2 to 14 and 17 to 19 have been amended to delete multiple dependencies, conform to U.S. spelling conventions, and otherwise slightly modify the language of the claims, all in a manner that is unrelated to issues concerning patentability.

Applicants have not been able to confirm that the amendments made and received by the Receiving Office on October 11, 2005 in the International Application during the International Stage (Article 19) were transmitted to the International Bureau. Thus, for purposes of completeness, this preliminary amendment includes amendments to the specification and independent claims 1, 15, and 16 of the International Application as published on September 29, 2005. These amendments correspond to the amendments made in the International Stage. Applicants also include with the enclosed copy of the published International Application a copy of amended pages 2 to 3a of the specification and amended pages 22 to 24 of the claims, on which the International Preliminary Report on Patentability was based. These amended pages include the amendments to the specification and claims 1, 15, and 16 discussed above.

New claims 20 and 21 have been added and correspond to the prior multiple dependencies of claims 17 and 19, respectively.

Applicants respectfully request consideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments.

Respectfully submitted,

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